Vol. II. Numb. 18

Athenian News:

OR,

Dunton's Oracle.

From Tuesday *Auguſt* the 15th, to Saturday *Auguſt* the 19th, 1710.

The Catholick-Poſt: *Or, News from* Rome.

I CALL this Poſt *The Catholick-Poſt*, as it brings News from *Rome*, and ſuch as call themſelves *Catholicks*, tho' I confeſs I can't ſee any Reaſon why the *Romaniſts* ſhou'd give themſelves that Name; 'tis true the *Papiſts* ſay, Their Church is univerſal, both in Reſpect of Time, Perſon and Place: It hath always been in the World, and hath flouriſhed in all Countries and Nations, *ergo* it is the true Church. That it is univerſal, they firſt prove by the Name of Catholick. But if the Name [*Chatholick*] were an unchangeable Mark, or natural Property of any real Church, it ſhould be of the *Greek* Church, or Nation, unto which the Name of *Catholick* is prime and natural. If the real Property anſwering to this Name, had belonged to the *Romiſh* Church, the Holy Ghoſt would have expreſſed it by a *Roman* Name, and have called the *Roman* Church the Univerſal Church: At leaſt, the *Romaniſts* ſhould have called themſelves Univerſals; not *Catholicks*, as the learned Doctor *Jackſon* noteth. It is eaſie to conſider the Vanity of this Aſſertion, *that a Name ſhould be an unſeperable Property proceeding of the Nature of any Reality.* But the Name of a *Chriſtian* is a more honourable Title than the Name of *Catholicks:* For this was uſed in the Apoſtles Time, *Act.* 11. 26. and by the Apoſtles themſelves allowed: But it is not certain, that the Name [*Catholick*] came from the Apoſtles. *Secondly*, they prove their Univerſality by the Multitude of People that have received the *Romiſh* Faith: And their Church (ſay they) hath repleniſhed the greateſt Part of the World. They would prove this by the Propagation of the Church in the Apoſtles Time, in *Tertullian*, *Irenæus*, *Hierom*, *Auguſtine*, yea, and afterward in *Gregory's* Days: Yea, and now alſo, beſides many great Countries in *Europe*, they have their Church in *India*, *America*, and the unknown Parts of the World, ſaith *Bellarmine*. But the Truth is not always to be meaſured by the Judgment or Opinion of the Multitude. The greateſt Part is not the beſt; Chriſt calleth his Flock *a little Flock*. Beſides, the *Papiſts* have nothing to do with the Church that was propagated in the Apoſtles Time, nor for the Space of five or ſix hundred Years after Chriſt: And the moſt of their Errors are more lately ſprung up than ſo. The Pope's Juriſdiction in *Europe* is much diminiſhed. And for the *Indians* and *Americans*, it is well known, what Cruelty the *Spaniards* uſed to win that ſimple People to Chriſt, as *Benzo* the *Italian* hath related it: And there are few or none of their *Popiſh Catholicks* in thoſe Countreys, but of their own Brood that have been ſent thither. Univerſality, unleſs it be joined with Verity, is no ſufficient Note of the Church, ſaith Mr. *Fox*.

So that you ſee *Reader*, I have no other Reaſon to call this Poſt, *the Catholick-Poſt*, but barely as it brings News from *Rome*, and ſuch as call themſelves *Catholicks*; but that they are ſo no more than in Name, you'll find by the following Intelligence from *Rome*, and other *Popiſh* Countreys.

Petropolis, July 1. *New Stile.*

WE have juſt now received a wonderful Diſcovery of a Region much diſcours'd of heretofore, but never ſufficiently ſurveyed; 'tis called by the old Inhabitants *Romania*, but by Modern Authors *Troſt-fabliana*; lying partly in the torrid, partly in the frozen Zone: For no where is feigned Zeal more *hot*, or true Devotion more *cold*. The Government is by an old Elective Monarch, that has carried before him, *a*

Key

Key and *a Sword*, the ancient Emblems of Riches and Power; the firſt ſhewing that all his Subjects Coffers are at his Command; the ſecond, that he may at his Pleaſure both force from others, and defend his own, (that is, whatever he can lay his Clutches on.) All that come into his Preſence muſt kiſs his Foot, by an ancient Cuſtom, begun at firſt by certain Kings (long ago) who were either troubled with a Weakneſs in their Crowns or Apoſtumes and Sores on their Hands. He ſeldom rides but on Mens Shoulders, to ſignify that he always finds Men Beaſts, or makes them ſuch. He makes many Laws, but keeps none, and yet never breaks any; for how can he be ſaid to break a Law, that cannot Err, though it were for a Wager?

The Inhabitants are but divided into two Tribes, the *Nebulonians* and the *Simpletonians*, and the former always govern the latter; they are both mightily addicted to Traditions and old Cuſtoms; inſomuch that they will chuſe to venture their Lives (and Souls too) at large, in any decayed leaky Bottom, rather than bring her in to be new trim'd in the Dock; and count it Impiety to ſweep a Room, after it hath contracted the Duſt of four Generations. The Number of Monaſteries in this Country exceeds the Number of Villages, beſides which, there are ſcarce any but ſcurvy Sheds, worſe than any *Weſtphalian* Inns: Nor is there ſcarce a Freeholder in the Land; for all thoſe that are not profeſs'd Cloyſterers, are either Slaves or Beggars. They boaſt they are all of one Religion, marry they cannot tell what; but profeſs Ignorance, hate Enquiry, and think the only Courſe to hit on the celeſtial narrow Way, is to ſtumble along blindfold, or follow their Prieſts, who like *Will-with-a-wiſp* lead them through thick and thin, over Hedge and Ditch with a *Dark Lanthorn*. In their Pace, they make continual Croſſes, cunningly thwarting one Thigh over another at every Step, and ſo fancy they bleſs themſelves every Foot of Ground they paſs. They care not for touching any thing, be it Water, Oyl, Salt, Wax, or Iron, unleſs it be firſt exorciſed, and the Devil driven out of every Corner of it.---- Several other odd Uſages they have, of which (with a better Deſcription of the whole Countrey) expect an Account by the next *Catholick Poſt*.

Rome, Auguſt 4. *New-Stile*.

WE have little Novel ſtirring here; the hot Weather has made *Paſquin* lazy, yet we have ſomething conſiderable to communicate. What though it were acted a thouſand Years ago? To thoſe that never heard it, 'twill ſtill be new, and perhaps much truer than what you hear at Coffee-Houſes. The Buſineſs is only *The Ceremony and Manner of the Baptizing of Antichriſt*.

The Infernal Brat having the Luck to be born with a great deal of Struggling in this Imperial City, there was extraordinary Pomp and Preparation made for the Goſſipping; the Streets being thick ſet with Torch-bearers at Noon-day, as if by adventitious Light, they deſign'd to outblaze and eclipſe the Sun. The Cavalcade troop'd along to St. *Peter*'s Church, in this Order: Firſt, an ancient grave Matron (but ſomewhat purblind) named Lady *CUSTOM*, march'd foremoſt; after her with a ſober and demure Countenance, followed *Worldly Wiſdom*, bearing the *Salt*, *Cream*, and *Spittle*, to baptize the Infant: Then came Madam *Hypocriſy*, holding her Head ſomewhat down, as having ſpecial Care of the Child; and ſhe carried the Water to ſit the intended Buſineſs. *Subornation* went next, bearing the Towel, which is all beſet with precious Stones, and round embroidered with *Purgatorian Flames*, deſcribed in antick, but unintelligible Characters. Then under a ſumptuous Canopy came *Uſurpation* the God-father, who carried the Child aloft, attended on by Hereſy and Tyranny, two hard-favoured Ladies, holding up the Corners of the Linnen Coverture behind: *Error*, an old thick Gouty Gentleman, followed the Babe cloſe, but often ſtumbling: Dame *Bribery* and Dame *Simony*, the appointed God-mothers, went next in ſerious Conſultation: Then came the *Roman* Burgeſſes, named *Humane Traditions*, with whom walked *Idolatry* and *Blaſphemy*, and with the Reſt of the Quire ſang very ſolemnly; whilſt *Cruelty* with a bloody Flag brought up the Rear, and forced all By-Standers to joyn in the Ceremony; yet to pleaſe the People, and in Sign of Liberality, the *Jubilee*, which had been ſold before at a very dear Rate, was proclaimed freely, and *Bulls* and *Pardons* as cheap as Cucumbers in *July*, or *ſhotten Herrings* in *October*.

When they came to Name the Bantling, ſeeking to give it an Appellation of Renown, a great Difference aroſe: One would have him to be named *Holy Mother*, another thought it more fit to call him *Holy Father*: *Uſurpation* would have him term'd, *The Supream Biſhop*; but *Hypocriſy*, *The Servant of Servants*; and *Idolatry*, would needs ſtile him, *God on Earth*: Inſomuch that the

the Prieſt that was to perform the Solemnity, ſeeing no likelihood of any Agreement, thought fit to exerciſe his own Authority, and bethinking him of a Name, that might both fit and anſwer all their Hopes, Chriſten'd and Nam'd him *THE POPE.*

Doway, Auguſt 10th. *New-Stile.*

IT being now the Seaſon of the Year for Toys and Trinkets, pretty Sights, and Artificial Puppets to be expoſed for getting of Pence, we are to acquaint you, That his Holineſs has his *Bartholdom-Fair* too, and more Knick-knacks to be ſold than *John Tredeſcan* had. Never did *French Cook* ſlice out a Joynt of Mutton to more advantage, than we can parcel forth the Carcaſs of a Saint, and make Money of it at twenty Places at once. As for Example, St. *Bartholomew* himſelf, the Jeſuits at St. *Omers* have one of his Legs, at *Burgos* they have another Leg, five of his Ribs at *Leige* in *Germany*, his Head at *Villa Garſia*, his Skin at *Piſa* in *Italy*; yet at *Naples* they have the whole Body, Fleſh, Skin and Bones; and yet further, the Keepers of St. *Bartholomew*'s Church at *Rome*, will make Affidavit, that his whole Body is there too, intirely, and not a Scrap nor a Crum of him in any other Place.

At *Hall* in *Brabant*, young Catholick Ladies may ſee and take Patterns, if they pleaſe, of the very Thread, Work-Basket, Siſſars, and Needles of the Virgin *Mary*, which ſhe uſed in making (as the Popiſh Merry-Andrews tell us) of her Son's ſeamleſs Coat. [You muſt not wonder if Nonſenſe and Abſurdity attend ſuch Lies and Cheats.] At *Gaunt* there is the Aſs's Tail on which Chriſt rode in Triumph to *Jeruſalem*; which is only twice a Year expoſed to be reverendly kiſs'd by the Rabble, for encreaſe of Merit. There are likewiſe Monks Hoods and Friars Cowls, in which whoſoever dies, ſhall flie bolt-upright into Heaven, as directly as Father *Whitebread* or *Ireland*, without ſo much as calling in at *Pog Trantums* or Purgatory by the Way: Together with Pardons and Indulgences of all Sorts and Sizes, for all, and all Manner of Sins of whatever Shape, Scantling, or Complexion they be; or whether paſt, preſent, or to come. This is the Staple Commodity of all the Papal Empories; and a certain Releaſe for Souls that have hung *reezing* ſo long in the ſmoak of Purgatory, till they are as black and ſooty-complexion'd as a *Weſtphalia*-Gammon.

There are a Thouſand other Curioſities to be had dog-cheap, a lumping Bargain for a packing Penny; for his Holineſs has been at deviliſh Charges in carrying on the bleſſed Work in *England*, and will be in Danger of turning Bankrupt, unleſs his Factors fill his Bags again with Expedition. Therefore I could wiſh all his Catholick Brats in *England*, would preſently be gone over the Herring-Pond to furniſh themſelves with theſe choice Bleſſings while they are to be had.

Paris, Auguſt 17. *New-Stile.*

THere's a Parcel of *Tickling News* arriv'd juſt now, that has caſt his Holineſs into a *Megrim*, and half diſtracted all the Conclave. Never was infallible *Joan* in more torturing Pangs, or greater Confuſion, when ſhe fell in labour with her Baſtard in ſolemn Proceſſion, than our Politicians are in now, with ſtudying how to retrieve the deſperate Game, and promote the Catholick Religion in *England*, in Spight of Proteſtants and Providence. To have two ſuch hopeful Stratagems blown off in three Years ſpace, our long-hammer'd Deſign upon *Scotland*, and that more bleſſed Intrigue which was to ſecond it, by ſtarting a *S——rell Plot*, and balking the Chace with a freſh Counterfeit Scent, all diſcovered, quaſh'd, and ruined in a Moment, and the ſecret pious Counſels of holy Mother lay'd open to the Scorn of Men, and underſtanding of Women and Children; and this too, when we were juſt ready to *ſpring the Partridge*, when we had ſo cajol'd and bias'd the ſoft-ſcull'd, but hot-headed *Tantivy-men* in *England*, and prepared not a few well-meaning *Laodiceans*, to ſwallow, like *Gudgeons*, our Catholick Baits, in ſuch a Juncture to be out-witted and diſappointed, is that which attacks our *Heart-ſtrings*. Do but obſerve how ſimply all our little Emiſſaries look now, and how ſilently they drink their Coffee, who not long ſince, bluſter'd and roar'd, and hector'd like *Bulls of Baſhan*——*Viſiſti Galilæe!* Heaven is too hard for us, and we may take up our Brother *Balaam*'s Complaint---- *Surely there is no Enchantment againſt* Jacob, *neither is there any Divination againſt* Iſrael; *according to this Time it ſhall be ſaid of* Jacob *and of* Iſrael---- *What hath God wrought!* Nothing proſpers we undertake; and whilſt ſome addreſſing pretended Proteſtants, were ignorantly content to advance our Deſigns, we our ſelves prudently deſtroy them: for our moſt refined *Italian* Policies have only ſerv'd to make our Villanies more groſly viſible and no-

torious

notorious. However, *Magnis excidit Auſit*, tho' our Performances fail, our devout Wiſhes ſhall be our Comfort. If we cannot ſet the Hereticks together by the Ears by Art and Addreſs, nor butcher them by Force, we'll hug our ſelves with the pleaſing Thoughts how bravely and how boldly we deſign'd it, and how near we were to the accompliſhing it.

Stormy Weather: Or, The Amuſing Poſt.

HEre's ſtrange odd Weather of late, my Maſters; and yet I'm ſure that's no News; for why ſhould not Things ſymbolize, or aſſimulate? We have had *Wind* enough within theſe few Days, to blow, as Saylors ſay, the Devil's Head off, or the Houſe out at Window. Heavens! What Tempeſts there are Abroad? the whole Syſtem of Nature ſeems to be in Confuſion, and what but the God of Order can compoſe it? there's nothing but Thundring and Lightning, Ruffling and Scuffling to be heard; the World looks as if 'twere poſſeſs'd with an *Epidemical Frenſy*; they ſwagger and rant, the greateſt Part know not for what; and when they are met they cry out, *Great is Diana of the* Epheſians. Indeed the Univerſe is all Tempeſt: Storms in the *Architype*, between CHRIST and *Belial:* Storms in the intellectual World, between Perſevering and Apoſtate *Angels:* Storms in the Elementary World, unuſual Rains, prodigious Hails, dreadful Thunder-claps: Storms in the Habitable World, between honeſt Men couchant, Fools dormant, and Knaves rampant: Storms in the Microcoſm, the little Tiney World of a Man's own Breaſt, there's the Battle of *Lepanto* and *Edge-hill*, Paſſion againſt Reaſon, Reaſon againſt Faith, and the Devil againſt them all; the Heart and the Brain are faln out, and nothing but a good Liver can make Peace: Laſtly, There are wonderful Storms in the infernal World too, for Jeſuits quarrel with the reſt of the duller Orders, and are all together by the Ears, which ſhall have the greateſt Share in the Booty. But what Wonder is it to ſee Hell at odds, when no doubt every petty Devil would be *Lucifer?* And 'tis thought, ſome of our little drunken pragmatical *Chemarims* will ſhortly be ſent thither, or rather go Volunteers for *Trumpeters.* In the mean Time, we ply our Buſineſs on Earth: Have you not ſeen the Traiterous Medals of the *Chevelier* St. *George*, an excellent Piece of Popiſh Impudence, and our more ſly Tory Friends are employed in rubbing up old Sores, in addreſſing *ſcribling lying Pamphlets*, and talking, who is next to be turn'd out. Thus every Man has his *Poſt* and his *Province*, and we promiſe our ſelves mighty Matters.

The Caſuiſtical-Poſt: *Or,* Athenian Mercury.

Queſt. *ARe all Chriſtians bound to joyn themſelve to ſome particular Church, or Congregations?*

Anſw. Yea, they are in a ſpecial Manner bound to it, and that for theſe Reaſons,

1. In Regard of God's Inſtitution, *Mat.* 18. 17. wherein is contained a Neceſſity both in Regard of the Precept and the Means.

2. Regard of the Preſence of God and Chriſt there, *Rev.* 1. 13. For if we will come to God, we muſt come alſo to that Aſſembly where God doth in a ſpecial Manner manifeſt his Preſence, and is found of thoſe that ſeek him there.

3. In regard of God's Glory, which is much advanced publickly by this Means: For as God under the Law placed his Name in *Jeruſalem*, ſo under the Goſpel he doth it in theſe publick Aſſemblies.

4. In Regard of the Covenant and Promiſe of God: For they which are Members of the Church, they are, as it were, directly under the Promiſes and Bleſſings of God to be poured out upon them, *Pſal.* 65. 5. and 133. 3.

5. In Regard of our Profeſſion; becauſe otherwiſe it cannot be that the Believers ſhould be diſtinguiſhed from Infidels, 1. *Cor.* 5. 12.

6. In Regard of Mutual Edification, which follows from this Combination of the godly amongſt themſelves, *Heb.* 10. 24, 25. 1 *Cor.* 11 17. *and* 12. 25, 27. *Rom.* 1. 12.

London, Printed for the Author, and are to be Sold by *J. Morphew* near *Stationers-Hall*.